

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

September 27, 2011

**Support for Southern California Association of Governments' Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is soliciting applications for funding pursuant to its Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. This program is intended to support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization, (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity, (3) energy use and climate change, and (4) public health and environmental impact.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has requested that the County of Los Angeles (County) join a consortium of major stakeholders, including councils of government, transportation agencies, and community-based organizations throughout the County and the SCAG region, to apply for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

**-MORE-**

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
**September 27, 2011**  
**PAGE 2**

SCAG's proposal is intended to foster sustainable and equitable communities in Southern California with an emphasis on leveraging the region's transit infrastructure. The proposal is comprised of two components: (1) the development of assessment, monitoring, and planning tools to support sustainable community development at different scales and (2) the facilitation of pilot regional planning projects that highlight different implementation planning approaches for sustainable community development in response to the diverse challenges and opportunities in various parts of the region. While the pilot projects would not take place in unincorporated areas of the County, the County's participation on the Regional Plan Implementation Steering Committee would provide a venue to access the best practices and tools created through this effort.

**I THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Designate the Department of Regional Planning as the County's lead department with respect to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant application and the Southern California Association of Government's proposed consortium;
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Regional Planning to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding which will allow the application for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by October 6, 2011; and
3. Direct the Director of the Department of Regional Planning to take all appropriate action to apply to HUD for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, including execution of a subsequent Consortium Agreement.

**# # # #**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
RELATING TO THE  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL  
PLANNING GRANT FOR THE SCAG REGION**

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a mutual understanding in support of the signatory agencies, organizations and governments that will be working in cooperation to: 1) prepare a successful U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning (SCRP) grant application to which the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) shall serve as the lead applicant; and 2) complete the work funded under the SCRП grant.

**II. Background**

On July 27, 2011, HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) containing the requirements for the FY 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (Program). The Program would provide approximately \$50 million nationwide to regions with populations of 500,000 or more, with up to \$5 million per grantee for regional planning activities that are consistent with a set of certain “Livability Principles” intended to guide interagency efforts in coordinating housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments designed to enhance economic competitiveness, support community revitalization, and help align federal policies and funding including policies related to energy use and climate change.

This Grant Program is closely coordinated among HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, and serves as the second year of grant funding through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The Program supports metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) economic

competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact. The Program places a priority on investing in partnerships, including nontraditional partnerships (e.g. regional planning agencies and public education entities) that translate the Livability Principles into strategies that direct long-term development and investment, demonstrate a commitment to addressing issue of regional significance, use data to set and monitor progress toward performance goals, and engage stakeholders and residents in meaningful decision-making roles.

Over the past three months, SCAG staff has coordinated regional stakeholder meetings to discuss the development of a Regional Proposal consistent with the Program (Regional Proposal). During the last seven years, SCAG has developed three inter-related regional plans including the 2004 Compass Blueprint Growth Vision Report, the 2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan and the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). SCAG is also currently developing the 2012 RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for adoption in 2012. SCAG and the signatory agencies therefore intend to apply for Category 2 funding as part of the SCRP grant application which focuses on implementation planning.

The Regional Proposal is intended to foster sustainable and equitable communities in Southern California with an emphasis on leveraging the region's transit infrastructure (including the Metrorail, Metrolink and bus systems). The Regional Proposal which is currently in development by SCAG and the signatory agencies will comprise two components: (1) Region-wide component which seeks to develop assessment, monitoring, and planning tools to support sustainable communities development at different scales, and accordingly, provide benefits to all six counties and 191 cities in the SCAG region, other stakeholders, community based organizations and the general public (hereinafter referred to as "Region-wide Tool Development"); and (2) Pilot Project Component which will facilitate four regional planning projects highlighting different implementation planning approaches for sustainable community development in response to the different challenges and opportunities in various parts of the region (hereinafter referred to as "Pilot Regional Planning Projects").

### **III. Agreement**

*Whereas*, there is a recognized need among the signatories for a coordinated, collaborative regional effort to prepare and carry out a successful SCRP grant application and work program; and

*Whereas*, an SCRP grant application and work program will be prepared and managed by the SCAG in cooperation with the MOU signatories, including, but not limited to, County of Los Angeles, through its Department of Regional Planning in cooperation with the County Department of Public Health and the County Community Development Commission, with the intent of establishing a Regional Proposal that will include both Region-wide Tool Development and Pilot Regional Planning Projects in different parts of the SCAG region; and

*Whereas*, SCAG shall serve as the lead applicant for the SCRP grant application and shall act in the representative capacity with HUD on behalf of all the signatories and assume fiscal and administrative responsibility for regular interaction with HUD; and

*Whereas*, the signatories agree to the best of their abilities and within the limits of their budgets to work cooperatively on the grant application and funded project; and

*Whereas*, any private sector organization, non-profit, academic or research institution, philanthropic partner, community organization, governmental entity, or intermediary agency that bears responsibility for or has an interest in the sustainable development and redevelopment of the SCAG region may be a partner and signatory to this MOU; and

*Whereas*, each of the signatories to this MOU understands that sustainable development and redevelopment including the promotion of infill development in the SCAG region represents environmental, transportation, social, and economic and community development strategies which advances the goals of the federal SCRP program; and

*Whereas*, each of the signatories to this MOU is committed to following the Livability Principles relating to the sustainable development and redevelopment of the SCAG region:

1. **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable and economic transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
2. **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location-and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility, and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
3. **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services, and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.
4. **Support existing communities.** Target funding toward existing communities through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling – to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.
5. **Coordinate policies and leverage investment.** Align policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.
6. **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban; and

*Whereas*, the Regional Proposal developed under the SCRP grant will support these Livability Principles and should, to the greatest extent possible and where appropriate, be built upon the foundation of work that has been accomplished and undertaken in the region where existing plans, partnerships, and processes enhance regional planning, coordination and efficiency, reduce unnecessary duplication of effort and responsibilities, and add clarity and accountability to implementation processes; and

*Whereas*, SCAG and the signatories agree and acknowledge that this MOU is a precursor to establishing a consortium to carry out the proposed activities of the Regional Proposal if a SCRP grant is awarded. The signatories further agree that a formal Consortium Agreement will be executed within 120 days after the effective start date of a cooperative agreement with HUD, to which the Consortium Agreement will describe each member's specific activities under the Regional Proposal, including timetables for completion. In addition, separate memoranda of understandings may be executed between SCAG and consortium members receiving funding from the grant to ensure delivery of the required activities.

*Now, therefore*, this MOU is established to create a framework for coordinating efforts related to the preparation of a successful SCRP grant application and successfully completing the work funded under the SCRP grant.

#### **IV. Match, Leverage Resources and Other Contributions**

- a. In accordance with the NOFA, additional points are given by HUD for grant applications that provide documented match, leveraged resources and other contributions that can be combined with HUD's Program resources. As part of the Regional Proposal, SCAG intends to contribute 25% in matching funds (either cash or in-kinds contributions of services, equipment or supplies allocation to the Regional Proposal). The signatories have also been requested to contribute collectively another 25% in matching funds (either cash or in-kind contributions).

- b. At this time, the County of Los Angeles does not intend to contribute matching funds to be used towards achievement of the Regional Proposal. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the County of Los Angeles to expend or obligate funds towards achievement of the Regional Proposal.

#### **V. Effective Date**

This MOU will become effective upon signature by SCAG and any regional stakeholder who has been involved in the development or is expected to be involved in the implementation of the Regional Proposal (hereinafter referred to as “Party”). Any Party may terminate its participation in this MOU upon written notice to SCAG and the other Parties. The provisions of the MOU will be reviewed periodically, as appropriate, and amended or supplemented as may be mutually agreed upon in writing.

#### **VI. Termination Date**

This MOU will be terminated upon either of the following:

- a. The date that SCAG is notified that the Regional Proposal is not selected for the HUD Grant award; or
- b. In case that the Regional Proposal is selected for the HUD Grant award, the effective date of the Consortium Agreement.

#### **VII. Other Memorandum of Understandings**

There are no superseding MOUs on this topic among the Parties hereto.



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
RELATING TO THE  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL  
PLANNING GRANT FOR THE SCAG REGION**

By my signature below, my organization/agency becomes a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant for the SCAG Region. An original executed copy of this MOU will be kept on file with the Southern California Association of Governments.

RICHARD J. BRUCKNER  
Director  
Los Angeles County Department of  
Regional Planning

By

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director Bruckner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN  
County Counsel

By 

\_\_\_\_\_  
ELAINE M. LEMKE  
Principal Deputy County Counsel  
Property Division

**Please return signed MOU to:**

Southern California Association of Governments  
Attention: Ping Chang, Program Manager  
818 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3435  
E-mail: chang@scag.ca.gov  
Fax: 213-236-1962